

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicants have carefully considered this application in connection with the Examiner's Action and respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the following remarks. The Applicants originally submitted Claims 1-37 in the application. The Applicants previously amended Claims 1, 10, 19, 25 and 31. In this response, the Applicants amend Claims 1, 7, 10, 16, 19, 24, 25, 30, 31 and 36. Accordingly, Claims 1-37 are currently pending in the application.

I. Rejection of Claims 1, 3-7, 10, 12-16, 19-31 and 33-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 3-7, 10, 12-16, 19-36 and 33-36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,815,709 to Waldo, *et al.*, ("Waldo") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,615,400 to Cowsar, *et al.* ("Cowsar"). With respect to independent Claims 1, 10, 19, 25 and 31, the Examiner asserts that Waldo teaches an interface, a check code generator, an interface identifier, and a check code generator that transforms said interface into an interface identifier. The Examiner admits that Waldo does not teach each element of Claims 1, 10, 19, 25 and 31, and looks to Cowsar to cure this deficiency. The Examiner cites Cowsar to provide the elements of an interface of a dynamically linkable component, coupling the interface identifier to the dynamically linkable component, and an interface identifier to determine a compatibility of the interface of the dynamically linkable component. However, the combination of Waldo and Cowsar fails to include every element of the presently claimed invention.

Claim 1 presently includes the element of "determine a compatibility of said interface of said dynamically linkable component by comparing said interface identifier with an interface identifier history list containing at least one member." This element is not taught or suggested by

Waldo or Cowsar. While the Examiner previously asserted that a history list is taught by Cowsar as a VTable, Cowsar col 8, ln 57, the Examiner is incorrect. Those of ordinary skill in the art appreciate that a VTable is an array of pointers to functions, and may contain other data, such as type metadata. See, e.g., <http://c2.com/cgi/wiki?VesTable>. Cowsar teaches that the VTable contains a class serial number. But a class serial number is not an identifier history list. An identifier history list is defined in the Specification as comprising a list of interface identifiers representing the history of the modifications to the interface. Page 21, lines 8-10. The definition of an identifier history list provided in the Specification is controlling in this Application. MPEP 2111.01. Waldo and Cowsar, separately or in combination, do not teach storing a history of interface identifiers in an identifier history list, nor has the Examiner cited the other references made of record to provide this element. Moreover, one of ordinary skill in the art would not find any suggestion of storing a history of interface identifiers in Waldo or Cowsar. Thus, the combination cited by the Examiner fails to support a *prima facie* case of obviousness and Claim 1, and those claims depending from Claim 1, is allowable. Similarly, independent Claims 10, 19, 25, and 31, and those claims depending respectively from them, are allowable. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner remove the rejection of these claims.

II. Rejection of Claims 8, 17 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 8, 17 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Waldo in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,991,774 to Tate, *et al.* ("Tate"). Because independent Claims 1, 10 and 31 are allowable over the combination of Waldo and Cowsar,

dependent Claims 8, 17 and 37 are also allowable, and the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner remove this rejection.

III. Rejection of Claims 2, 11 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 2, 11 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Waldo in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,548,759 to Lipe. Because independent Claims 1, 10 and 31 are allowable over the combination of Waldo and Cowsar, dependent Claims 2, 11 and 32 are also allowable, and the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner remove this rejection.

IV. Rejection of Claims 9 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 9 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Waldo in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,505,160 to Levy, *et al.* ("Levy"). Because independent Claims 1 and 10 are allowable over the combination of Waldo and Cowsar, dependent Claims 9 and 18 are also allowable, and the Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner remove this rejection.

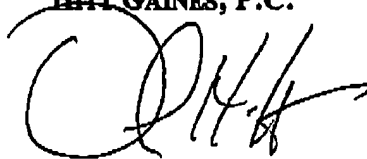
V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Applicants now see all of the Claims currently pending in this application to be in condition for allowance and therefore earnestly solicit a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-37.

The Applicants request the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at (972) 480-8800 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

HITT GAINES, P.C.



David H. Hitt
Registration No. 33,182

Dated: MAY 16, 2005

P.O. Box 832570
Richardson, Texas 75083
(972) 480-8800